

Is there little to fear about the tapeworm, Echinococcus granulosus? Is it just anti-wolf propaganda? Consider my point of view. Last fall, I killed an elk on a ranch in southwestern Montana. As a friend and I field dressed it, the rancher drove up and congratulated me and asked for the lungs. When we asked why he wanted the lungs, he stated he had been asked to collect them for a veterinarian in Helena. According to the rancher, the veterinarian was using the lungs to grow cysts to develop a vaccine for dogs. On the way home, we stopped at a game check station. The MT FW&P biologist asked if she could have the head of my cow elk for Chronic Wasting Disease research. At the time, I didn't think too much of it and said sure. Now, after reading a couple newspaper articles and the Idaho Outdoorsman article, I'm wondering if FW&P have an agenda. Why was the rancher told the lungs were for a dog vaccine? Was the cow elk's head used for more than chronic wasting disease research? Is FW&P hiding something? I don't know, but I have concerns. My main concern is that my friend had both his dogs with that day, which were exposed to the elk I shot. About a month later, my daughter and son tended to his dogs for two weeks while he was away on business. It is a mother's prerogative to be concerned. If my daughter and son were yours, would you be concerned? With that said, I'd really like FW&P to come clean on what they really know about wolves and E. granulosus. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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